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A N

E S S A Y

On the *WEST-INDIA*

DRY-GRIPES;

WITH THE

METHOD of Preventing and Curing

THAT

CRUEL DISTEMPER.

To which is added,

An Extraordinary CASE in Phyſick.

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PHILADELPHIA:
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M.DCC.XLV.

TO THE

READER.

I HAVE long been of Opinion, that 'tis the Duty of Phyſicians frankly to communicate to the World, any particular Method of treating Diſeaſes, which they have found to be ſucceſsful in the Courſe of their Experience, and not generally known or practiſed by others. By this the Medicinal Art has been, and may ſtill be greatly improved. Many are the Advantages the preſent Age reaps from ſuch a diſintereſted Conduct in our Predeceſſors; and where we have freely received, ſurely we ſhould freely give.

THIS has induced me to write the following Eſſay on the Dry-Gripes, *and to recommend a Method of Cure which appears to me to be drawn from the Nature and Cauſe of that grievous Diſtemper, and which has approved itſelf to me by a very extraordinary Succeſs.*

AND tho' the Method here laid down may be new to the Generality of the Profeſſion, it has been practiſed ſome Years, with great Approbation, by ſeveral Gentlemen of diſtinguiſhed Characters in Philadelphia.

FROM their Judgment of this Method, as well as my own, I am inclined to hope the following Piece may contribute, in ſome Degree, to the Welfare of Mankind. With this View I have cauſed it to be printed, and ſubmit it to the candid Conſideration of the Publick.

I Muſt

I Muſt not here omit acknowledging myſelf particularly obliged to my learned and worthy Friend, Dr. A. Spencer, *of* Philadelphia *(who is recommended by the famous Dr.* MEAD, *and ſeveral eminent Gentlemen of the Faculty in* London, *as a moſt judicious and experienced Phyſician and Man-midwife) for his Trouble in reviſing this Eſſay, as well as for embelliſhing it with ſome curious and uſeful Obſervations, which he would not ſuffer me to point out to the Reader.*

New-Jerſey, Trenton,
March 25, 1745.

Tho. Cadwalader.

A N

AN ESSAY On the *WEST-INDIA DRY-GRIPES.*

THE *European* Phyſicians give an Account of a Diſeaſe ſimilar to the *Dry-Gripes*, calling it *Cholica Pictonum*, becauſe moſt frequent at *Poictiers*. They are both attended with exceſſive griping Pains in the Pit of the Stomach and Bowels, which are much diſtended with Wind; violent and frequent Reachings to vomit, ſometimes bringing up ſmall Quantities of bilious Matter; at other times there is a Senſation, as if the Bowels were drawn together by Ropes; great Coſtiveneſs, and frequently a continual Inclination to go to Stool without voiding any Thing.

The

The Ducts which open into the Inteſtines, and excern a Mucus to moiſten and lubricate them, are obſtructed and glewed up with a Viſcoſity not eaſily reſolvable; and through the whole Courſe of the Diſtemper, the Fæces are extremely dry and hard, in ſmall Lumps like Bullets. The Inteſtines are drawn up towards the Back with almoſt continual convulſive Twitches. The Pains are frequently ſo ſharp, that the Patient will fall on the Floor, and cry out violently in the greateſt Agony.

The Alcaline Acrimony impacted on the Stomach and Inteſtines, is ſo great in many Caſes, as to communicate its malign Influence to the whole nervous Syſtem, cauſing violent Convulſions, which are very dangerous Symptoms; tho' I have known many recover after having a Number of them. But if the exceſſive Pain continues any conſiderable Time, the *Periſtaltic* Motion of the Inteſtines becomes inverted, and the *Iliac Paſſion* enſues.

This ſore Malady uſually degenerates into the Palſy, and a Deprivation of all Sort of Motion in the Hands and Feet.---Doctor *Willis* conjectured, that the Tranſition of a Cholic

Cholic to a Palsy, was a Sign that the Morbific Matter was transmitted not by the Arteries, but the *Nerves*, and that its Seat was not in the Coats of the Intestines, but the nervous Plexus of the *Mesentery*; which is very sensible, and obnoxious to an Afflux of Humours of the nervous Kind. But this Remark of Dr. *Willis* can only relate to the Hysteric Cholic, which sometimes counterfeits the Bilious; being accompanied with a Pain about the *Scrobiculum Cordis*, the Region of the Stomach, and a little lower, which is followed with a Vomiting of Humours of a green or yellow Colour, and a great Sinking of the Spirits; after a Day or two the Pain goes off, but upon the slightest Commotion or Perturbation of the Mind, it soon returns again. In this Case, neither Cathartics nor Clysters have any Place, as they exasperate the Distemper; so that this Disease seems to proceed rather from the Disorder of the Spirits, than the Fault of the Humours. Physicians, therefore, ought above all things to be cautious, that they mistake not the *Diagnostic*, by imagining that the Symptoms which attend Hysteric Women, do arise from

ſuch Diſtempers as they frequently counterfeit.

The remote Cauſe is ſuppoſed to be an obſtructed Perſpiration, by being too much expoſed to a moiſt Night Air, and cold raw Winds; hard Drinking, eſpecially Drams or ſtrong Punch; and Want of a good Digeſtion, which renders the Chyle crude and viſcid; but the proximate Cauſe is an acrimonious Bile.

It is, indeed, the Opinion of ſeveral ingenious and worthy modern Authors, that this Diſtemper is cauſed by taking large Quantities of Lime-juice; but I muſt beg Leave to differ from their Sentiments in this Caſe: For ſeeing the Humours which vellicate and fret the Coats of the Stomach and Inteſtines are intirely alcaline, Acids muſt be (and Experience confirms it) the moſt effectual Remedies. Thus the Negroes, in ſome Parts of the *Weſt-Indies*, eaſe their exceſſive Pains in the *Dry-Gripes* by eating Limes, or drinking the Juice. It has likewiſe been obſerved, that ſince the People of *America* have drank Punch with more Water (which moiſtens the Fæces, and dilutes the acrid Salts of the Bile) and made

of

of old Spirit (which has leſs of the hot fiery Particles than when new from the Still) yet with much more Lime-juice than formerly, the *Dry-Gripes* is not near ſo common as before this Cuſtom prevailed.

In all Kinds of Diſeaſes it is abſolutely neceſſary to know the Cauſe; for otherwiſe to attempt a Cure, is like a blind Man ſhooting at a Mark; the Remedies in one Caſe being directly oppoſite and deſtructive in another. Thus if a Fever, proceeding from a hot, inflammatory, alcaline Cauſe, be treated with a hot Regimen, and not with an acid cooling One, the Patient muſt inevitably periſh; but, on the contrary, if Acidity is the Cauſe (as it commonly is in Children) the alcaline Method is to be preferred. As therefore a Phyſician, not carefully regarding the Symptoms and the Cauſe of a Fever, may prove the Deſtruction of the Patient; ſo in all Cholics the Symptoms and the Cauſe are to be principally regarded; and for want of a nice and exact Attendance thereto, a too general Method of Cure very ſeldom meets with Succeſs in either Caſe.

But before I enter upon the Cure of the *Dry-Gripes*, Humanity obliges me to obſerve, that the Perſons who are moſt liable to it are generally lean, and much emaciated, by their exceſſive Perſpiration in the *Weſt-Indies*; and conſequently the aqueous Parts of the Blood being thus evaporated, the ſaline Particles muſt neceſſarily become exceeding acrid. The Method, therefore, to prevent this Malady in ſuch Conſtitutions, is obvious, *viz.* To abſtain, in the *Weſt-Indies*, and in Summer on the Continent, from Drams and ſtrong Punch; ſalted and high ſeaſoned Meats; immoderate Exerciſe, which raiſes Sweat; and profuſe Venery: To riſe early in a Morning; to take Chocolate for Breakfaſt and Supper; make frequent uſe of Broths and boiled Meats, emollient and acid Herbs and Fruits; dilute plentifully with tepid, ſmall, and ſubacid Liquors; and when coſtive, to take a ſmall ſaponaceous Purge, ſo as to procure one Stool a Day.

The following Method I have found, by many Years Experience, ſucceſsful in the *Dry-Gripes*, and were it more generally practiſed,

practiſed, I believe the Lives and Limbs of great Numbers might be ſaved.

To mitigate the Violence of the Pains, and prevent Vomiting, I order,

Opii, Grana una vel duo, ſive Laudan. liquid. Sydenham. Guttas triginta, quadraginta, vel quinquaginta, et repetend. pro re nata, in majori vel minori Doſi, donec Æger ſe ſenſit in ſtatu tolerabili.

If the Vomiting be ſo bad that the Stomach can hardly retain any Thing, the following Powders ſcarce ever fail of ſucceeding :

R. *Tartari Vitriolati, Grana decem; Olei Cinnamomi Guttam unam. M. F. Pulvis ſumendus in Hauſtu Theæ Menthæ omni (vel ſecunda quaque) Hora.*

The Vomiting being ſtopped, I have Recourſe to the following Preſcription, till three or four Stools are obtained :

R. *Cremoris Tartari Grana triginta; Olei Caryophyllorum Guttam unam. M. F.*

Pulvis

Pulvis ſumendus in Hauſtu Theæ Menthæ (vel Decocti avenacei) omni Hora.

As an obſtinate Coſtiveneſs, and moſt violent Pain of the Bowels, are perpetual Symptoms in this Diſeaſe, Opiates are to be adminiſtered through its whole Courſe at proper Intervals. When, therefore, the Pain is very exceſſive, I give Opiates even at the ſame time with the purging Powders, that the Pain may be rendered tolerable, that a Relaxation of the Inteſtines may thence follow, and that their Periſtaltic Motion may become conſtant and regular, and be neither interrupted nor perverted.

Every Pain acts as a Stimulus, or rather, a Stimulus excites a Senſe of Pain: But every Stimulus provokes the Fibres to Contractions, and, if violent, throws them into Spaſms. When, therefore, a Cholic Pain is very vehement, the Inteſtines are in ſome Places affected with Convulſions, and are as if bound hard with a Swathe; inſomuch, that unleſs the Pain is lulled aſleep, neither the Fæces nor Wind can be tranſmitted downwards: It is for this Reaſon, that every violent Cholic Pain is almoſt always attended

tended with a great Coſtiveneſs. It is, therefore, very rational to add Anodynes to Purges in very vehement Cholics; nor is this any new Practice, ſeeing the moſt experienced *Riverius*, *in Capite de Dolore Cholico*, preſcribed *Aloes Drachmam unam*, *Scammonei Grana ſex*; to which he added two Grains of *Opium*, and in one of his Obſervations even five Grains.

This Courſe, ſteadily purſued, gives ſometimes three or four Stools in Twenty-four Hours; but if no ſuch End is obtained, as it often happens (eſpecially if the Diſtemper is of long Standing) I order the Abdomen to be cheriſhed with an emollient Fomentation, and that more particularly when the Belly is very tenſe and hard, or exceſſively contracted by a Spaſm: For the Fomentation penetrating the Integuments of the Abdomen, ſoftens and relaxes the too tenſe and rigid Fibres. I have often experienced the good Effects of the following Fomentation:

R. *Florum Chamæmeli Manipulos tres*; *Radicis Althææ*, *Seminum Lini et Fænugræci*, *ana Uncias tres*; *Capitum Papaveris*

veris albi Uncias quatuor. Cum Aquæ et Lactis recentis, ana Q. S. Vaſe decoque clauſo.

But I am apt to believe, that far better Effects might be expected, if the Patient made uſe of a Semicupium prepared from the ſame Ingredients. Every One who has obſerved the very happy Effects of an emollient Bath in Nephritic Pains, will very readily agree to what I ſay.---I have, indeed, frequently ſeen the moſt cruel Nephritic Paroxyſm ſuddenly vaniſh by the Uſe of a Bath only, when neither plentiful Bleeding, nor Opiates given freely, gave the leaſt Relief: Nay, I have learned, by many Experiments, that nothing conduces ſo much to eaſe the Pain, and ſend the Stone down the Ureters, as a warm and emollient Bath.

I am likewiſe of Opinion, that it would very much conduce to a ſpeedy and perfect Cure, if the Patient, through the whole Courſe of the Diſtemper, made frequent uſe of oleaginous Mixtures, which would not only lubricate and relax the Inteſtines, but alſo, by ſheathing the lixivial Salts of the Bile, prevent their Points from acting with

with so much Force and Energy upon the Stomach and Intestines. For in this Distemper, the Secretion of the acrid Salts of the Bile, in the Hepatic Glands, seems to be in an over Proportion to the oily Parts.

Where there is no Vomiting, and the Pain not very acute, the Powders of *Crem. Tartar* may, after giving one Opiate, be used as directed, without any Delay. The Effects of which, after some Time, will be a sensible Perception of the Pain falling gradually downwards, from the Pit of the Stomach towards the Rectum. When, therefore, the Pain is settled in the lower Parts of the Abdomen, you may, in case the Patient is uneasy for want of a Stool, prescribe the following Purge.

R. *Cremoris Tartari Drachmam unam*; *Radicis Jalapii Grana sex*; *Olei Caryophyllorum Guttam unam. M. f. Pulvis sumendus in Haustu Decocti avenacei secunda (vel tertia) quaque Hora.*

If this does not, in six or seven Hours, procure a Stool, I order an oleaginous and emollient Clyster; which not only lubri-

cates the Inteſtines, but alſo ſoftens the indurated Fæces.

When the hardened Excrements are carried downwards, the Patient begins to break Wind backwards, which is ſometimes exceeding offenſive. In the firſt three or four Stools, the Fæces are often very fætid, and abounding with a ropy viſcid Subſtance, reſembling membranous Filaments.

It is a neceſſary Caution not to be too haſty in gaining a Paſſage thro' the Body; for if larger Quantities of the ſame Medicines, or others more ſtimulating, ſhould be given, you will be often foil'd in your Expectations, and make good a common Saying, *The more Haſte, the worſe Speed:* For ſharp ſtimulating Purges and Clyſters have very bad Effects on the Nerves in this Diſeaſe, and endanger a Deprivation of Motion in the Patient's Limbs.

Tho' the Patient generally recovers upon procuring a free Paſſage through the Inteteſtines, by the prudent Uſe of the already mentioned Medicines; yet it is neceſſary to keep the Body ſtill temperately open for a Week, or more, by the laſt preſcribed Purge; to which may be added *Calomel.*

Grana

Grana ſex: For otherwiſe the Patient becomes very coſtive, and the exceſſive Pains return, by the acrid Humours perpetually flowing into the Inteſtines.---But if notwithſtanding all this the Pains ſhould return, which perhaps may be owing to a greater Degree of Viſcidity in the Fluids, I have known a Dram of the *Tartar. Solubil.* taken every three Hours to perfect the Cure; and when that failed, the following has generally ſucceeded:

R. *Aquilæ albæ Grana ſex; Conſervæ Roſarum rubrarum Q. S. ut fiat Bolus omni Mane et Veſperi ſumendus donec Ptyaliſmus excitetur leniſſimus.*

The Calomel, by its Gravity, and the acid adhering to the metalline Part, attenuates the Fluids, and forcing open the ſecretory and excretory Paſſages, anſwers the Intention in ſuch obſtinate Caſes.

When Convulſions happen, ſtrong Stimulants are to be avoided; but Anodynes generally relieve, with the Method already deſcribed.

In this Diſtemper the poor Patient being deſirous of a Moment's Eaſe, even at any Rate, has too commonly a Recourſe to Drams, and other ſpirituous Liquors. But tho' a Moment's Eaſe may, by ſuch Means, be obtained, yet the Diſeaſe is more ſtrongly rivetted, the Pains return with double Force, and all the Symptoms are vaſtly aggravated.

The proper Drinks in this Diſtemper are, Water-Gruel, Barley-Water, and ſuch others as are of the demulcent Kind; which dilute, obtund and diſſolve, the acrimonious Salts of the Blood.

Till the Stomach and Inteſtines have perfectly recovered their proper Tone, the Patient is very liable to a Relapſe, either by taking Cold, drinking too freely of ſpirituous Liquors, or not keeping ſtrictly to Aliments which are light and eaſy of Digeſtion: To ſtrengthen, therefore, the Stomach and Bowels after the Patient's Recovery, I order the following Medicines:

R. *Elixir proprietatis Guttas ſexaginta, ter de Die ſumendas in quovis Vehiculo.*

Vel,

Vel,

R. *Corticis Peruviani Unciàs duas*; *Radicis Serpentariæ Virginianæ, Florum Chamæmeli, ana ſeſquidrachmam*; *Radicis Gentianæ, Corticis Aurantiorum, ana Drachmas tres*; *Radicis Rhei Drachmas duas. Infundantur cum Vini Maderenſis Libris quatuor. Capiat Æger Uncias duas ter de Die.*

Vel,

R. *Saponis Veneti ſemiunciam*; *Extracti Gentianæ, Chalybis cum Sulphure præparati, ana Drachmas duas*; *Pulveris Radicis ſerpentariæ Virginianæ, Aloes, ana Drachmam unam*; *Syrupi Zinziberis, Q. S. ut fiant Pilulae mediocres. Capiat tres omni Mane et Veſperi.*

To compleat the Cure, let the Patient, as ſoon as able, uſe conſtant and moderate Exerciſe on Horſeback, than which there is not a better Thing to ſtrengthen the Viſcera and Inteſtines; for the Fibres of the Meſentery and Inteſtines having been with the long Pains much weakened and relaxed, are by this Means brought to recover their proper Tone, and reaſſume their former Oſcillations,

cillations, ſo as to ſhake off and expel the morbific Impurities: For riding on Horſeback, by the very frequent Jogging of the Body, gently ſhakes the whole Abdomen; and, therefore, by a continual Preſſure and Agitation, it throws off whatever adheres to the Inteſtines, overcomes any Lentor remaining in the ſmall Veſſels, and very much promotes the Circulation of the Blood thro' the Meſenteric Veſſels, and little Branches of the *Vena Porta*, where the circulating Fluids move the ſloweſt. Hence this Exerciſe, by its almoſt continual jolting of the Body, diſſolves the Blood, concreted partly by the Force of the Diſeaſe, and partly by its ſluggiſh Motion in thoſe Parts; opens the Obſtructions formed in the *Hepatic*, *Pancreatic*, *Meſenteric*, and *Inteſtinal Glands*; and greatly contributes to the Action of the *Spleen*, which is aſſiſting to that of the Liver. Laſtly, as it is evident, from many Experiments, that Perſpiration is very much increaſed by Riding, it is of vaſt Advantage not only in this, but in almoſt every Chronical Diſeaſe, by driving the noxious Humours from the Center to the Circumference, and expelling them through the

Ducts

Ducts of the *Milliary Glands*. Riding only, has indeed restored many, on whom the most operose Medicines have not had the least good Effect. Let then the Patient enjoy Health by Riding, and daily acquire Strength by this noble Exercise.---The Use of the Flesh-Brush, and other Frictions, are likewise necessary, especially about the Joints and Limbs, which will promote a brisker Circulation of the Fluids in those Parts. In fine, every Thing is to be used which will increase the Elasticity of the Fibres, attenuate the Fluids, and promote a good Digestion.

If this Disease is complicated with any other, the Judgment of the Physician may then vary the Method, according to the different Circumstances of the Case. Thus when the *Dry-Gripes* is only the Symptom of a spurious, intermitting Fever, the *Peruvian* Bark, prudently administered, is then the only proper Remedy: For the spurious Intermittents create a great Variety of direful Symptoms, their true Characteristicks being disguised under the Appearance of some other Distemper; as enormous Vomitings, griping Loosenesses, Cholera

lera Morbus, Cholics, pricking Pains in the Side like a Pleuriſy, Ophthalmies, Apoplexies, Pains on one Side of the Head, or Hemicranies univerſal or particular, Spaſms or Cramps, Nephritic Pains, *&c.* alſo Pains like thoſe of Women in Labour.

The Bark is certainly a moſt noble Remedy in many Caſes; and notwithſtanding ſome ingenious Gentlemen have pointed out a Way to anſwer all its Uſes by other Remedies, endued (as they ſay) with as good, if not better, Properties; yet I believe, every Practitioner, who has had a thorough Experience of its Efficacy in many Diſeaſes, will readily acknowledge, that nothing has hitherto been diſcovered equal to it: And that late Diſcovery, in the *Philoſophical Tranſactions*, of its moſt admirable Effect in Mortifications, may be ſufficient to convince ſuch Sceptics, that their darling Hypotheſes not agreeing with Facts, are but Cobweb Schemes, calculated rather to amuſe, than to eſtabliſh a ſolid and laſting Practice.

All Hypotheſes, unleſs they agree with Facts, are deluſive and vain; and I believe it will be readily granted, that had the Writers of this and former Ages confined them-

themſelves more to practical Obſervations, ſome Diſeaſes, now the *Opprobria Medicorum*, would have been better underſtood, and perhaps as eaſily cured as an intermitting Fever by the Bark judiciouſly adminiſtered.

What I have ſaid is not to derogate from the Theory of Phyſick, which is founded on Facts and proper Obſervations; and by which every particular Diſtemper, with all its Symptoms and Accidents, may be accounted for; becauſe it is impoſſible for any Man to judge from ſuch and ſuch Symptoms, what the Method of Cure ought to be in this or that Diſeaſe, unleſs he has an Idea of the Cauſes and Manner of their Production. A true Phyſician, therefore, goes always warily to Work, and proceeds upon a juſt and ſolid Foundation; for he firſt gets a Knowledge of the Seat and Cauſe of a Diſorder, and at theſe he levels his Preſcription. If the Caſe proves obſtinate, he augments the Force of his Medicines, and varies them as Circumſtances alter, without acknowledging an End to his Art, where the Diſeaſe is curable: For he has always ſome promiſing Remedy in Reſerve,

and can, from Rules of Analogy, directly attempt the Removal of Diſeaſes unſeen before. A Perſon, on the contrary, who is ignorant of the *Animal OEconomy*, and the many other Requiſites in Phyſic, is puzzled and confounded at every Accident which turns up, and a new Caſe throws him quite out of his Biaſs; for having but few Remedies to truſt to, he directs them at all Adventures, without purſuing any formed Deſign, or without regarding the Seat, the Cauſe, or Stage of the Diſeaſe, and the Circumſtances of the Patient. If happily his Medicines ſucceed, it is well; but if they fail, he is at the Extent of his Cord, he has done his utmoſt, and your Caſe is deſperate: But thrice happy is the Patient, if he eſcapes without having either his Conſtitution or Life deſtroyed, through the Pretender's Ignorance and Raſhneſs.

I ſhall now after this Digreſſion give a few Caſes of Perſons who have been under my Care, to illuſtrate the foregoing Method of curing the *Dry-Gripes*.

CASE

CASE I.

A young Man, of eighteen or nineteen Years of Age, having been ſeized with the *Dry-Gripes*, was treated in the uſual Manner with ſtrong ſtimulating Purges and Clyſters, for about a Week before I was called to his Aſſiſtance; but inſtead of relieving him, they had ſtrongly aggravated all the Symptoms. At my coming he had a racking Pain in his Stomach and Bowels, and ſuch frequent Strainings to vomit, as to caſt up every Thing he took. His Pains were ſometimes ſo exceeding ſharp, that two or three Perſons could ſcarcely keep him in Bed; and after every ſuch ſharp Fit, he could not ſee for near a Quarter of an Hour. As, therefore, Opiates could not be kept in his Stomach, I ordered him to take the already mentioned Powder of vitriolated Tartar every Hour in Mint-Tea, which always ſuppreſſes the Vomiting, where Anodynes fail.

After taking three Doſes his Stomach became ſo well ſettled, as to take the following Draught.

R. *Aquæ Menthæ Uncias duas*; *Laudani liquidi Sydenhamni Guttas quadraginta. M. f. Hauſtus.*

About an Hour afterwards I preſcribed the Powders of Cream of Tartar; and at the ſame time ordered his Abdomen to be well fomented with the Fomentation.

After uſing the Fomentation, and taking ſeveral Doſes of the Powders, the Pains fell down into the lower Parts of the Abdomen; I, therefore, ordered him to take the purging Powder with Jalap every two Hours in any Vehicle.

But after taking three of thoſe Powders, he became ſo impatient for Want of a Stool, that I ordered the following Clyſter:

R. *Decocti communis pro Clyſtere, Uncias duodecim*; *Electuarii lenitivi, Drachmas ſex*; *Tartari ſolubilis Drachmas tres*; *Olei Chamæmelini, Syrupi Roſarum pallidarum, ana ſeſquiunciam, Olei Baccarum Juniperi ſtillatitii Grana decem. M. f. Enema.*

This

This operating three or four times, brought away a large Quantity of Excrements.

To keep him tolerably eaſy the Anodynes were repeated three or four times every Twenty-four Hours, tho' in ſmaller Doſes.

To keep his Body temperately open, the laſt Powders were continued five or ſix Days. At length, by the Aſſiſtance of the *Elixir Proprietatis*, and the bitter Infuſion, he was perfectly recovered.

CASE II.

An old Man, near Seventy, was ſeized with this Diſtemper about a Month before I was ſent for: He had no Vomiting, and his Pains, tho' very ſharp, were not ſo acute as uſual.

I gave him, as ſoon as I came, *Opii ſeſquigranum*, and afterwards the Powders of Cream of Tartar. Next Morning I was ſent for very early, and found him in a Convulſion; but as it went off, I repeated the Opiate, and continued the Uſe of the Powders. In the Evening of the following Day, the

the Pains being removed to the lower Parts of the Abdomen, I ordered a Clyſter, and by obſerving the Method mentioned in the laſt Caſe, he got well in a few Days.

CASE III.

A Man, about Twenty Years of Age, was attacked by the *Dry-Gripes* above three Weeks before I ſaw him, and had taken (as I was informed) during that Time, near Twenty Purges and Clyſters. The Pains were exceſſively ſharp in the Pit of the Stomach, as well as in the Inteſtines; and he was frequently ſo convulſed, that two or three Perſons could ſcarcely keep him down. He was once ſo diſtracted with the Violence of the Pain, that he was with Difficulty prevented from throwing himſelf out of the Chamber Window.

I gave him *Liquid. Laud. Syd. Guttas quinquaginta*, which in a few Hours abated the Violence of his Pains. In ſhort, by purſuing the Method already laid down, he got the better of the Diſeaſe in about three Days Time. But his Stomach and Bowels were ſo very ſore afterwards, that he could hardly

hardly ſuffer any Thing to touch them. This indeed I have commonly obſerved, where the Pains have been very violent.

It is needleſs to recite any more Caſes, theſe being ſufficient to give a perfect Idea of the *Modus Medendi* to Practitioners.

I ſhall now, to ſhew the pernicious Conſequence of giving Quickſilver in this Diſtemper, relate the Caſe of a Perſon in one of the Hoſpitals in *London*.

A Man about forty Years old had the *Dry-Gripes* ſeveral Weeks, before he was taken into the Hoſpital. He had continual Reachings to vomit, and violent Pains in his Belly, which was prodigiouſly ſwelled and hard. The Phyſician attending the Hoſpital preſcribed very frequently Clyſters and Purges of *Aq. Purgant. cum mana, et Sal. mirab. Glaub.* and other Remedies. At laſt, when he found the Patient not in the leaſt relieved, but rather worſe, he ordered him to take Six Ounces of Quickſilver at a Time, which was repeated, till the Quantity amounted to 18 Ounces. This Method, however, was ſo far from recovering the Patient, that the Symptoms increaſing, he died

died after enduring the moſt racking Pains, for the ſpace of eight Weeks.

Having open'd his Body, the next Day after his Death, I found the Inteſtines very much diſtended with Wind, but little or no Excrements. In his Stomach, which was very much contracted and ſhrivel'd up, I found fourteen Ounces of the Quickſilver he had taken eight Days before, mixt with about half a Pint of viſcid Matter.

Hence we learn, how long Quickſilver may remain in the Stomach, eſpecially when the Fibres have loſt their proper Tone; ſince in this Caſe the contractile Power of of the Stomach muſt have been exerted with a prodigious Force, in order to have thrown ſuch a Weight from the Bottom of the Stomach over ſuch an Aſcent as the *Pylorus*.

As ſome Perſons have a great Opinion of the Uſe of crude Quickſilver in curing the *Dry-Gripes*, as well as many other Diſeaſes, I ſhall here, to ſhew how unphiloſophical ſuch Gentlemen are, give you Dr. *Quincey*'s Reaſoning upon the Article of Quickſilver :----' It is (ſays he) frequently ' talked of indeed, as good in ſome Affec- ' tions of the Bowels; but there are very ' few

'few Inſtances of its Uſe in ſuch Caſes. 'Nor can that at all appear reaſonable, 'which is commonly reported of its quick 'Paſſage through the Body; for the Argu-'ments which the Favourers of ſuch Re-'ports make uſe of, are quite againſt them; 'that is, its prodigious Weight: For when 'it firſt comes into the Stomach, it cannot 'but fall to the Bottom; which is ſo much 'below the *Pylorus*, that a vaſt Force muſt 'be required to throw it over into the In-'teſtines; and when it comes there, by 'their manifold Convolutions, it very fre-'quently muſt aſcend, and particularly 'while it paſſes the Colon: So that it is 'hardly conceivable, how a Body of ſo 'great a Weight can be lifted over ſo many 'Aſcents, as it neceſſarily comes at, be-'tween the *OEſophagus* and the *Rectum*.'

If Dr. *Quincey*'s Reaſons are convincing, how much ſtronger muſt be the Objection againſt the Uſe of Quickſilver, in Caſes where the Stomach and Bowels are relaxed and weakened; the Fibres being then certainly leſs capable of exerting their contractile Force to raiſe any Weight; which is certainly the Caſe, when a Perſon has

laboured under ſuch a violent Diſtemper as the *Dry-Gripes* for a conſiderable Time.

I have ſeen in *England* two Inſtances of the Succeſs attending the Method here laid down for the *Dry-Gripes* in the *Cholica Pictonum*, ariſing from the Fumes of White-lead; which gives me Reaſon to hope, that by a farther Trial of it in *Europe*, it would be found as beneficial in the latter Diſtemper, as it is in the former.

We frequently obſerve Perſons in the *Dry-Gripes* to loſe the Uſe of their Limbs (the Ancles and Wriſts becoming exceeding weak, and the Balls of their Thumbs ſinking) either by the Acrimony of the Humours, or the Uſe of ſtrong Stimulants; by which means the fine nervous Syſtem being wounded and debilitated, the Equilibrium between the Solids and Fluids is deſtroyed.---In ſuch a relaxed State of the Solids, the Blood muſt neceſſarily become viſcid; for the Fibres having loſt their elaſtic Force, the Circulation of the Fluids is diminiſhed, and conſequently they run into preternatural Coheſions. The giving, therefore, a greater Degree of Fluidity to the Blood, and a proper Tenſity or Springineſs

to

to the Fibres, is abſolutely neceſſary, to make all the regular Secretions and Excretions ; for otherwiſe ſome Parts of the Body will want a ſuitable Supply of nutritious Juices, while others are overloaded with a viſcous Fluid.

All Perſons of weak, relaxed Nerves, ſhould avoid a moiſt and foggy Air, which would neceſſarily render their Fibres ſtill more lax and flaccid * ; but let them reſide in a cold, clear Air, which will give a greater Degree of Tenſity and Elaſticity to the Solids. In ſuch Caſes, the Air of ſome Parts of *North-America* is far preferable to that of *England*, which is much moiſter, and more foggy than the former. On this Account it is, that Chronical Diſtempers are more frequent and obſtinate in *England* than in *North-America*.---But when they are in a cold Climate, they ought not to tarry too long in the cold Air, for fear of

* The Effects produced in the human Body by a heavy or light Atmoſphere, and according as it is affected by Cold, Heat, Moiſture, or Dryneſs, were fully and clearly explained in the Philoſophical Lectures exhibited by Dr. *Spencer* in *Philadelphia* laſt Summer ; which, as I am informed, will be ſpeedily publiſhed.

chilling their Blood; and it would be of Service to ſuch Perſons to wear the following Plaiſter on their Ancles and Wriſts during the cold Weather:

R. *Emplaſtri Oxycrocei, Galbani, ana Unciam unam; Opii, Camphoræ, ana Drachmas duas. M. f. Emplaſtrum.*

The Opium and Camphor, by the Subtilty of their Parts, are very penetrating and attenuating; and conſequently will be the Means of preventing a Lodgment of viſcid Juices on the Joynts; but the Plaiſter ought to be renewed every Eighth or Tenth Day. The *Linimentum Paralyticum*, which is well known in *England*, ought likewiſe to be well rubbed in, down the Back, and on the Limbs, twice a Day. It is a moſt excellent Compoſition, and and were its great Efficacy in theſe Caſes more generally known, it would be deſervedly eſteemed, as a moſt noble Topic in a relaxed State of the Nerves.

The Foods which they eat ſhould be nouriſhing, and eaſy of Digeſtion; for where the Fibres are weak, the Aliments ought

ought to be ſuch as are eaſily converted into Animal Juices, and will give the leaſt Reſiſtance to the Action of the Solids ; *viz.* New-laid Eggs, Jellies, Chickens, Lamb, Viper-Broth, *&c.* All ſubacid Liquors are beſt, as *Rheniſh* Wine, *Madera* Wine, in which Rattle-Snakes are infuſed ; ſour and weak Punch, made with old Spirit, *&c.* But both Meats and Drinks are to be taken only in ſmall Quantities at a Time, tho' oftener than uſual ; for hereby the Inconvenience of a diſordered Stomach will be avoided, and the Digeſtion rendered much lighter, and far eaſier. But, above all Things, let them take care to chew their Victuals thoroughly, with a ſufficient Quantity of light and well baked Bread ; for, according to the *Arabian* Saying, *He that does not take care to chew his Victuals thoroughly, hateth his own Soul.* It is from the Neglect of this Duty, that frequently an Indigeſtion ariſes, which creates Crudities, and a vicious Chyle ; which is the Forerunner of the Deſtruction of the whole Animal OEconomy.---The Stomach may be called the Kitchen of the Body, whoſe Office is to digeſt and convert the Aliments into

into a laudable Chyle; the more, therefore, the Food is attenuated and divided by Maſtication, ſo much the eaſier it is for the Stomach to perform its Office. Temperance is, indeed, the greateſt Preſervative of Health; for it prevents all Superfluities, and neither overloading nor ſtraining the Veſſels, enables Nature to exert herſelf with the greateſt Force and Vigour. Cupping, Bleeding, Bliſtering, Purges, Clyſters, *&c.* are ſeldom of Uſe, but to the Slothful and Intemperate; and are, for the moſt part, only Expedients to make Luxury conſiſtent with Health. The Bodies of ſuch Perſons as indulge themſelves in all Sorts of Aliments, without regarding either the Quantity or Quality, become frequently full of crude and vicious Humours; which, inſenſibly increaſing, at laſt begin to putrify, and grow malignant. Upon violent Exerciſe, therefore, or the ſlighteſt Exceſs of either Heat or Cold, Moiſture or Dryneſs in the Air, or any little Inconvenience ariſing from the other Non-naturals, a Dangerous Inflammation often enſues, and vents itſelf in acute and mortal Diſeaſes: For no Perſuaſion can prevail with ſome Men to

uſe

uſe purgative Evacuations to diſburden oppreſſed Nature at proper Seaſons, or before the Diſeaſe begins to gather Strength; flattering themſelves that all is well and ſafe within, as long as nothing appears outwardly, or is felt by them to the contrary. He, therefore, that is deſirous of preſerving his Senſes and rational Faculties in the greateſt Perfection, and of being able to act with a ſprightly Vigour and lively Apprehenſion, muſt beware of ſpurring Nature on beyond her Craving.

Laſtly, Let ſuch Valetudinarians uſe the Fleſh-Bruſh, moderate Exerciſe, without raiſing Sweat, and frequent polite and chearful Company. Muſic may likewiſe be of great Service in ſuch Caſes; for every Stroke of a muſical Inſtrument cauſes an Undulation of the Air, which giving ſome Degree of Concuſſion to the Fibres of the Body, without overſtraining them, produces a briſker Circulation of the Blood; and conſequently invigorates the Nerves, and leſſens the Viſcidity of the Fluids. The extraordinary and almoſt incredible Effects of Muſic in curing the Bite of the *Tarantula*, the World is no Stranger to. If theſe

Advantages

Advantages from Muſic were more particularly conſidered, it might perhaps be applied to very noble Purpoſes, and not (as ſome imagine) to enervate the Mind; for as a diſtempered Body is often the Cauſe of a diſordered Mind, it may, by acting on the Solids, be the Means of regulating our Paſſions, and bringing our Minds to a proper Degree of Calmneſs and Serenity. Thus *Saul*, who was without Doubt of a melancholy Diſpoſition, frequently ſoothed his troubled Mind, and raiſed his drooping Spirits, by the Force of *David*'s Muſic.

I will now ſubjoin a few Forms of Medicines, which I generally make uſe of in a relaxed State of the Nerves, but more eſpecially in Autumn, when we are moſt ſubject to the Diſeaſes ariſing from a debilitated Fibre; for in that Seaſon of the Year, our Bodies being relaxed by the Heat of the Day, are more liable to the Miſchiefs of the ſudden Coldneſs of the Evenings, Nights and Mornings. Beſides, *Sanctorius* has obſerved, that from the Autumnal Equinox, to the Winter-Solſtice, our Perſpiration is, one Day with another, about one Pound leſs; and this Diminution is ſtill ſo much

the

the more, as our Veſſels have been more relaxed by the Summer's Heat; for they then cannot with Force enough propel the contained Fluids, which conſequently muſt every Day contract a greater Degree of Lentor and Viſcidity.---It is, therefore, no Wonder, that many unwary Perſons are labouring under Diſeaſes in Autumn, ſeeing their Humours are then more than ordinary acrid, as well as their Perſpiration very much diminiſhed.

It is, therefore, evident, that the *Prophylactic* Method, in that Seaſon of the Year, is to ſtrengthen the Fibres, and preſerve a proper Fluidity in the Blood; that the ordinary Perſpiration may be kept up in a proper, conſtant, and uniform Manner.---The following Medicines anſwer ſuch an Intention in this Climate, and act as *Alterants*; for every Thing which does not operate in the firſt, but fartheſt Paſſages, the Phyſicians commonly include under that general Appellation. I think, however, that a few gentle and proper Purges ought firſt to be taken, in order to evacuate the redundant acrid Bile, which kind

Nature frequently endeavours to do, by *Diarrhæas*, *Choleras*, or *Dyſenteries*.

R. *Corticis Peruviani ſemiunciam*; *Camphoræ Grana triginta*; *Olei Cinnamomi Guttas octo*; *Syrupi Zinziberis Q. S. ut fiat Electuarium. Capiat quantitatem Nucis Moſchatae omni Mane et Veſperi.*

Vel,

R. *Conſervæ Abſinthii Romani, Corticis Peruviani, ana ſemiunciam*; *Chalybis Tartariſati Drachmas duas*; *Pulveris Zedoariæ Drachmam unam*; *Galangæ minoris Scrupula duo*; *Olei Cinnamomi Guttas octo*; *Syrupi Zinziberis Q. S. ut fiat Electuarium. Doſis eadem.*

Or, if a liquid Form is more agreeable, two or three Spoonfuls of the following may be taken once or twice a Day.

R. *Pulveris Corticis Peruviani Unciam unam, Radicis Rhei Drachmas duas*; *Baccarum Juniperi, Corticis Aurantiorum, ana Drachmas tres*; *Radicis Serpentariæ Virginianæ, acori veri, ana Drachmam unam, Cochinillarum Grana triginta. Macera per Triduum in Vini Maderenſis libris duabus. Cola.*

Vel,

Vel,

℞. *Pulveris Corticis Peruviani Unciam unam*; *Radicum Rhei et Acori veri, Cinnamomi, ana Drachmam unam*; *Corticis Aurantiorum Drachmas duas*; *Cochinillarum Grana triginta. Macera per Triduum in Vini Maderenſis Libris duabus. Dein Cola.*

The Ingredients joined with the Bark in theſe Tinctures give an agreeable Warmth and Scent, which is very grateful to a Stomach weakened and palled by a Fever and Medicines. The ſaline and reſinous Parts of the Bark, being intimately united with the Liquor, are thus given with much greater Advantage, than can be by giving it in Subſtance: For when it is given in the fineſt Powders, which can poſſibly be obtained from the Mortar and Sieve, it is yet too coarſe for a weakened Conſtitution, and therefore frequently brings on a *Diarrhæa* by its Stimulus; but in Tincture or Decoction, it is too fine to give any Diſturbance in the firſt Paſſages, and not only paſſes, by the common Courſe of Circulation, much farther, but gives a more uniform and general Contraction to the debilitated and relaxed Fibres.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE IN *PHYSICK.*

THE following Account being attended with ſome very uncommon Circumſtances, I thought it would not be improper to make a full Enquiry into the Particulars, of which I was firſt informed by ſeveral Perſons of Credit.

The Wife of one *B. S.* who had been a healthy, lively Woman, and the Mother of two Children, was ſeized, in the Year 1738, with a *Diabetes*, and the uſual Symptoms, *viz.* a frequent and copious Diſcharge by Urine, a gradual Waſting of the Body, a Hectic Fever, with a quick, low Pulſe, Thirſt, great Pains in her Shoulders, Back and Limbs, and Loſs of Appetite. She continued in this Manner two Years, not-

notwithſtanding the Uſe of Medicines uſually preſcribed in ſuch Caſes, but much emaciated. She was then attacked with an *Intermitting Fever*, which ſoon left her; and after this the *Diabetes* gradually decreaſed; ſo that in a few Months ſhe was intirely free from that Diſorder; but the Pains in her Limbs ſtill continued. She recovered her Appetite very well, breathed freely, and her *Hectic Fever* was very much leſſened, tho' ſhe ſometimes had Exacerbations of the ſame. About the Beginning of Winter, 1740, ſhe had ſuch a Weakneſs and Pain in her Limbs, as to confine her to Bed altogether; and in a few Months afterwards the Bones in her Legs and Arms felt ſomewhat ſoft to the Touch, and were ſo pliable, as to be bent into a Curve; nay, for ſeveral Months before her Death, they were as limber as a Rag, and would bend any way with leſs Difficulty than the muſcular Parts of a healthy Perſon's Leg, without the Interpoſition of the Bones.

The 12th of *April*, 1742, ſhe died, being then near the Age of Forty; and, having the Conſent of her Friends, I had the Curioſity to examine the Body. Upon raiſing

ſing the *Cutis*, I found the *Membrana Adipoſa* much thicker than I expected in a Perſon ſo much emaciated; the *Sternum* and Ribs, with their Cartilages, very ſoft; and all the cartilaginous Productions of the *Ribs* on the Left-ſide doubled over one another, about an Inch long, in this Form Z, but flatter. Upon raiſing the *Sternum*, I found the *Lungs* adhering very cloſe to the *Pleura* on each Side, but more looſe and flaccid, and much leſs in Size than uſual. Her *Heart* was of the common Bigneſs, and upon viewing her *Liver*, I found it at leaſt a third Part bigger than ordinary. Her *Spleen* was about an Inch and a Half in the longeſt Part, and about a Quarter of an Inch thick, and the *Inteſtines* were very much inflated.

She had Appearances of ſeveral *Anchyloſes* formed in the ſmall Joynts, *viz. Carpal* and *Metacarpal* Bones, *&c.* which had been without Motion for ſeveral Months; but upon laying them open, I found they were only like a thin Shell. The cartilaginous *Epiphyſes* of the Bones were intirely diſſolved, and no Part of the Heads remaining, but an Outſide, not thicker than an

Egg-

Egg-ſhell. Upon making Inciſions in her Legs and Arms of five or ſix Inches long, I found the outer *Lamin*æ of the Bones ſoft, and perfectly membranous, about the Thickneſs of the *Peritonæum*; and containing (inſtead of a boney Subſtance) a Fluid of the Conſiſtence of Honey when thick, and of a reddiſh Colour, but not at all diſagreeble to the Smell. There was, however, an Appearance of Bones near the Joynts of her Legs and Arms, tho' in part diſſolved; but what remained was very ſoft, and full of large Holes, like a Honey-comb. The Bones of the Head yielded eaſily to the Preſſure of my Finger. It may ſeem ſurpriſing, that thoſe Parts of the Bones, which are the moſt compact and hard, ſhould be diſſolved, while their Heads, which are more ſpongy and ſoft, had not altogether loſt their Subſtance.---She was, when in Health, five Foot high, as I was informed by her Huſband; but having meaſured her after Death, ſhe was no more than three Foot ſeven Inches in Length, tho' all her Limbs were ſtretched out ſtrait.

Quaere. Whether a corroſive, *acid* State of the Fluids, might not have been the Cauſe

Cauſe of this uncommon Diſſolution of the Bones? For had it been an *alcaline* Acrimony, I am of Opinion, thoſe Fluids, ſo long extravaſated, would have arrived to a great Degree of *Putrefaction*, and conſequently muſt have been extremely offenſive to the Smell, as is uſual in other Caſes proceeding from ſuch a Cauſe.

Suppoſing therefore a corroſive, *acid* State of the Fluids, to have been the proximate Cauſe; *Quaere*, Whether an *alcaline* Regimen, timely purſued, would not have been the moſt likely Method to have ſucceeded in this poor Woman's Caſe?

The E N D.

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